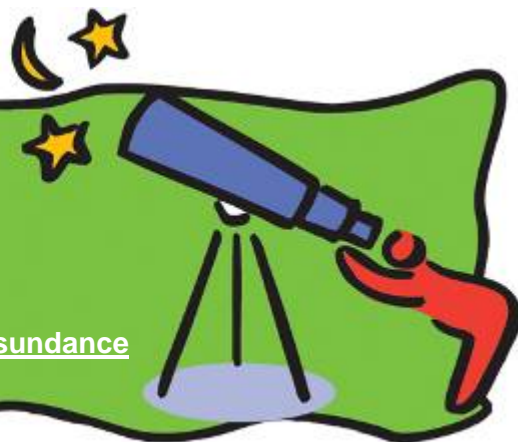


# Montessori at Sundance Square

November 2009

[www.brighthorizons.com/sundance](http://www.brighthorizons.com/sundance)



## Parenting Tip: Cooking with Children

Make children a part of the cooking tradition in your home. Pounding and rolling dough, dusting cookies with sugar, or helping wash vegetables and fruits can be great for the younger child's fine and gross motor development. Older children can practice many skills when they help make a list, read the recipe, chop food with supervision, mix, or decorate. Cooking can enhance learning but more importantly it's a great way for a family to bond and come together.

**From the Head of School...** The fall season is in full swing here at Sundance and we are excited about all the learning that is happening inside the classrooms. On behalf of all our staff we want to say "Thank You" to everybody who came out and supported our *Fall Festival*. It was a fun event and we're happy you were able to participate! We also want to thank those of you who brought your children to the *Parents Night Out* event. We hope you were able to enjoy a nice, quiet evening out. We will host another *Parents Night Out* event in November and a *Parents Shopping Day* in December, so be on the lookout for details. Parent-Teacher conferences are also coming up this month. We will post sign up sheets next to your child's classroom beginning Monday, November 2, 2009. If you feel you need a conference anytime, please speak to your child's teacher and we will be happy to set that up for you. Have a Happy November and a Happy Thanksgiving!

**-Mario Marquez**  
**Assistant Head of School**

## Important Dates to Note:

Nov. 11	Veteran's Day (School Open)
Nov. 17	Parent Board Meeting (5-6pm)
Nov. 20	Parents Night Out (6-10pm)
Nov. 25	Grandparents Day (Close at Noon)
Nov. 26-27	Thanksgiving (School Closed)



## Happy Birthday to You!

Nov. 10	Hannah W.
Nov. 11	Logan T.
Nov. 23	Jackson D.
Nov. 27	Ms. Tanesha

## Congratulations!!!

Congratulations to Madison Larsen as her family won the Movie Basket raffled off at the fall festival. We'd also like to congratulate Ms. Angela for having the closest guess for the Pumpkin Candy Jar. She was only off by 1 pumpkin (Total: 215)!



# Fall Festival 2009



**Top to Bottom/Left to Right:** Christopher playing Bucket Ball; Ellis and Ms. Wenika putting during Pumpkin Golf; Ms. Angela painting Paige's face while Megan and Cale wait for their turn; Jackson ready to knock down the pumpkins.





## Learning Pre-Academics through the Arts

It is not unusual to see news stories about how time and resources for music and visual arts programs are being cut in schools to allow more time for academics. While we all appreciate the importance of academics, at Bright Horizons, we know there are many, many ways to effectively build pre-academic skills through the arts. A few samples of what you may see in your child's preschool homebase follow:

### Music:

- Helping children understand patterns is an important pre-math skill. Teachers may demonstrate a short pattern for children to listen to and then have them repeat it. They typically start simple (such as “clap your hands, then tap your knees”) and get more complicated (“two claps, one head pat, and one foot stomp”).
- Rhythm instruments have a long history in early childhood programs. Tapping a regular rhythm on a drum or triangle or shaking bells to singing or a recording helps children strengthen their listening skills which are so key for performing well in school.
- Many popular children's songs and finger plays (such as “Five little monkeys jumping on the bed”) have number teaching embedded in the song. This song subtly teaches the concept that as a monkey falls off the bed, you have fewer monkeys. It is a fun way to help children experience the concept of subtraction.
- A visual representation of the words to a song helps children as they move toward reading. Using the last example, teachers might write the words to the “Five Little Monkeys” on chart paper for children to see, but insert pictures as well as words. For example:

Five little monkeys  jumping on the bed  . . .

Teachers will point to the words or pictures as they read them. Children will gradually learn to read the posted words without the picture cues.

### Visual Arts:

- Painting with brushes or drawing with crayons helps perfect a child's fine motor skills and more specifically his eye-hand coordination. These skills will be crucial for learning to write. Learning to use a tool, like a paintbrush or crayons, is a precursor to using a pencil.
- Children's artwork is typically labeled with the child's name. Initially, teachers write the child's name on the artwork saying each letter as they write it. Often by doing this, the first word that a child learns to read is her name. This often leads to a child trying to later recreate the letters on her own.
- The children's easel can become a science lab. Children at the easel may spend time seeing what happens when they mix a little yellow paint in with the blue, for example. He intently watches what happens as he adds more and more yellow. Such experiential learning is the best!

These are just a few ideas of what you might see in your child's homebase. Many of these activities can be replicated at home as well. Enjoy creatively building your child's pre-academic skills through the arts.

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**Be sure to check out [www.brighthorizons.com/growing](http://www.brighthorizons.com/growing) for more ideas and tips to support your child's growth and learning.**



# Bright Horizons News

## 82 Clients Named to 2009 *Working Mother* 100 Best Companies List

We congratulate our clients who were recently recognized for providing critical work/life supports to their employees by *Working Mother* magazine. We are proud to partner with these companies and offer our high-quality services including child care, back-up care, and college counseling. More information, including the complete list and methodology, is at <http://www.workingmother.com/BestCompanies> and in the October issue of *Working Mother*.



Going Green

## Creative Uses for Everyday Containers

Vegetable and meat trays, yogurt containers and cups, fruit containers, bottles, jars, milk and egg cartons, wipe boxes — Containers in every shape and size come into a household on a regular basis. Consider re-using these in creative ways. Vegetable trays and fruit containers come in handy to put paints and craft materials; cups and jars are great for water play; bottles and cartons can be used to store the many craft and small items that children bring into the house. And sometimes the container holding the materials can become the canvas or craft itself.



## Bright Horizons Reads for the Record

Several Bright Horizons centers and schools across the country recently participated in Jumpstart's 2009 Read for the Record event. Children were taken through the delightful journey of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, by Eric Carl, by parents and community leaders serving as guest readers.

Reading and nurturing a love of books happens all the time at every Bright Horizons center.. All children — from our youngest infants to our oldest preschoolers and school-age children — experience a wide world of literature from reading in cozy nooks and on teachers' laps to authoring and illustrating their own literary masterpieces. To get reviews on the latest books for children, listen to authors talk about their stories, or see the list of books that made it to the Growing Readers Books of Excellence ranks, please visit the [Growing Readers](http://www.brighthorizons.com/growing/readers/index.aspx) Web site at <http://www.brighthorizons.com/growing/readers/index.aspx>.